

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues January 11, 2011 Meeting

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the January 11 meeting are summarized below.

1. PM Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan

- There is renewed interest in a potential development of a redesignation request and maintenance plan for PM_{2.5}. The region has been operating under a Clean Data Determination which typically involves as a next step requesting redesignation.
- Based on discussions with EPA and state air agency staff, the main focus of recent work has been to determine acceptability of years for base year, interim years, and outyear to include in a maintenance plan that would be submitted with the redesignation request.
- Base year options under consideration are 2007 or 2008.
- The outyear of the plan must be at least 10 years from the effective date of redesignation and dates currently under consideration range from 2023 to 2030. For 2023 to be viable, EPA would have to approve the redesignation request by 2013, which may be a very tight timeline for the region to meet.
- At least one interim year is required, but if the region decided to establish the outyear as 2030, at least two interim years would be required. Mobile budgets would have to be established for all milestone years included in the plan.

2. Integrated Energy Task Force

- A new task force has been initiated to undertake a variety of planning tasks associated with local and regional efforts to advance district energy and microgrid solutions.
- The Energy Advisory Committee (EAC) recently met to discuss new initiatives in the region to advance clean energy technology - microgrids, combined heat & power, and thermal utilities.
- Members expressed interest in COG's assistance in developing appropriate and effective procurement approaches, including development of a model RFP. Members also requested planning assistance to identify suitable sites for development of new CHP and microgrid resources in the region. Deployment of microgrid and CHP technology in the region has the potential to reduce emissions of both criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases.
- With support from the state air agencies and MWAQC, COG will form an expert task force, with representatives from area universities and others to advise COG's technical and policy committees on development of resources and approaches to overcome barriers to more widespread use of clean energy technologies.
- The task force will attempt to leverage the MWAQC support with funding from universities and technical assistance from EPA and DOE. Focus will include best practices for procurement of emerging clean energy resources, criteria for siting clean energy resources, identification of suitable sites for development, and recommendations for inclusion of such clean energy approaches in air quality and climate plans. The project will also assess the potential for deployment of new clean energy sources in the region and the associated air quality benefits.

3. SIP Voluntary Bundle Annual Survey

- A survey has been circulated to collect progress information for the SIP Voluntary Bundle, Alternative Fuel/Low Emission Vehicles, Green Building Programs/Policies, as well as the CEEPC 2012 Climate and Energy Action Plan activities. COG staff have combined the surveys and harmonized the timing of the surveys to streamline the process. The survey was sent out on January 4, responses are due February 4th. Previous answers were included in the survey forms in many instances, so only updates would be required, if any. State agencies with SIP commitments, such as the DOTs, will be surveyed separately.

Upcoming Events

ACPAC, January 10; TPB, January 19; CEEPC, January 26; Integrated Community Energy Workshop, January 26; GHG Inventory Training, February 17.